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Socio-Economic Status of Urban Madurai Street Vendors - A Micro-Level Analysis

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Street Vending is one of the fundamental constituents of urban economies and also a distinctive part of large informal sector. Though street vendors contribute to the economy in many ways (creates employment, produces and distributes goods/services at affordable prices), they did not get the required attention of the planners, policy makers and public. On realizing the contributions and the need to integrate them in the growth process of the economy, Parliament of India enacted an Act namely, Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014 to regulate street vendors in public areas and protect their rights.

The objective of this chapter is to examine the socio-economic conditions street vendors of urban Madurai, based on the primary survey conducted among 200 respondents during the year 2019. The socio-economic condition of street vendors could be understood by examining the characteristics such as religion, caste, community, nature, size of family, education, marital status, migration, employment, housing condition, income, expenditure and savings, indebtedness, etc.

As a prelude to the present study, a brief review of earlier studies on street vendors in India are attempted in section 1. In section 2, the socio-demographic profile and socio-economic conditions of the street vendors are presented based on empirical evidence. The last section summarises the main findings.

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Section 1

Studies on Street Vendors: Indian Perspective

Though street vending was a common business activity even before independence, it was treated almost illegal in urban India for almost six decades until the passage of the Street Vendors Act in 2014. There are several studies conducted in several parts of India even before the Act was enacted. A brief review of selected studies is undertaken below:

Shah J Parth and Naveen Mandava (2005) done an extensive analysis of the various types of living on streets in various parts of Indian states and argued for suitable laws, liberties and livelihood mechanisms. They highlighted the magnitude of street vendors, problems of street vendors and the challenges ahead in street vending in urban India.

Nidan (2010) conducted a study on Street Vendors at Patna (Bihar). The study revealed that there were 28,432 Street vendors in Patna. Of the number surveyed, 32% of them resided in Patna while the rest resided in the outskirts of the city or in the neighboring districts. The sex composition showed that 22% were females and 78% were males. In almost all cases the male Vendors are supported by their wives and one or two children. Lack of basic facilities such as toilets and crèches for their children was another major problem stated by female vendors. Earning is very low and ranges from Rs. 30 to 120 per day. However Street vendors have no access to formal finance, and they largely rely on their savings, and finances from friends and relatives. The main reason, given by 92% of the sample, for choosing vending as a profession was because there were no other jobs available which gave them dignity, Other important reasons for choosing this profession were, entry was easier and investment was low. At the same time, the working conditions of the vendors are very tough. An average, vendors had to work for 12-14 hours a day to earn their meager income. The police, the municipal authorities and local musclemen all contribute to playing havoc with their lives and their earnings. It is common practice for the police to charge Rs. 5-20 per day from each vendor.

Saha, Debdulal (2011) portrayed the 'working life' of street vendors in Mumbai in terms of their financial conditions and the extent of indebtedness, the amount of bribes they have to pay to sustain themselves in the market, their working hours, the issues of public space utilisation, and the legal aspect of their activity. The study is exploratory and their situations have been explained with the help of both quantitative and qualitative data. The study showed that the street vendors borrow from moneylenders not merely for their economic activity but also for social security purposes at an exorbitant rate of interest, which, in turn, leads them to fall into a debt-trap situation. It is found that that street vendors have extremely long working hours and they enjoy neither safety nor security at the workplace as they face constant harassment from the local authorities. The study concluded that there is a deteriorating working environment as well as economic deprivation for street vendors.

Sharit K. Bhowmik and Debdulal Saha (2012) conducted a study on "Street Vending in Ten Cities in India". The cities covered were Bhubaneswar, Bengaluru, Delhi, Hyderabad, Imphal, Indore, Jaipur, Lucknow, Mumbai and Patna. The study examined the socio-economic conditions and problems of street vendors and also analysed the consumers' perception of street vending.

Baljit Kau (2015) in his study on 'Urban Informal Sector and Street Vendors' indicated that in India, a major section of self-employed informal workers works as street vendors. They provide a range of goods and services that are useful to other sections of urban poor and hence they form an important segment of the informal economy. Based on the survey conducted in Patiala district of Punjab, he found that due to a low level of income, these street vendors spend low on various requirements which in turn leads to a lower level of welfare and low standard of living. Due to this reason, a major section of street vendors was living below the poverty line. Moreover, these poor vendors were facing various types of harassment from different sources in the form of evictions and confiscation of their goods and other belongings which restrict them from investing capital to increase the scale of

operation and hence income level. This paper argued that the state government should implement the provisions of the 'Street Vendors Act,2014' to ensure the urban poor a secure and dignified livelihood.

Jha, Ramnath (2018) in his paper on "Strengthening Urban India's Informal Economy: The Case of Street Vending" examined the spatial and legislative dimensions of street vending and argued that with more urbanisation likely to happen across India, the number of street vendors is likely to rise substantially. Further, it is stated that given the national population growth and urbanisation trends, and the limited ability of the formal sector to create jobs, it would do well for cities to facilitate as many informal job opportunities as possible, including street vending. The study recommended that street vending is made into a planned activity, purposefully written into a city's urban plans.

From the review, it is clear that street vendors comprise one of the most marginalised sections of the urban poor. However, they play a very dynamic role in the urban economy, providing necessary items, which are largely both durable and cost-effective, to average income-earning households at cheap and affordable rates. The employment in street vending activities has over the years diversified and changed quite a lot. The problems and issues concerned about street vending vary across countries significantly. There have been efforts to provide social security and welfare cover to these workers both by the Government and the Non-Government agencies but most of these initiatives have failed to achieve the desired objectives. The findings of regional studies have more relevance in highlighting the issues of street vendors and evolving strategies to uphold their livelihood and ensure sustainable development. With this backdrop understanding of the issues of street vending and street vendors, the present study is carried out.

Section 2

Socio-Demographic- Economic Conditions of the Street Vendors

Street vending activities are different in nature. Certain activities like the sale of flowers, fruits, and vegetables are undertaken mainly by females and there are many other activities done by both the gender. The gender-wise involvement in street vending business was

observed based on primary information. It was observed that male vendors accounted for 69 percent of the business and the rest 31 percent was accounted for by females. It indicated that male dominate in street vending business compared to that of the female (Table 1).

Table 1
Socio-Demographic Profile of the Street Vendors

Indicators	Categories	Percentage Share
Gender	Male	69
	Female	31
Age Distribution (in Years)	Below 14	1
	15- 30	6
	31-44	44
	45-60	37
	61and above	12
Educational Qualification	Illiterate	38
	Primary and Elementary School	36
	Secondary/ High school	21
	Collegiate	4
	Technical / Vocational	1
Marital Status	Single	7
	Married	82
	Widowed	2
	Separated	9
Nature of Family	Joint	29
	Nuclear	71
Family Size	< 3	24
	3-5	59
	5-10	14
	Above 10	3
Caste Status	General (F C)	21
	BC	50
	MBC	6
	SC & ST	23
Religion	Hindu	83
	Christian	7
	Muslim	10
Native Place	Local	69
	Nearby Madurai	25
	Other districts	5
	Other States	1

Source: Primary Data

The distribution of respondents by age categories was analysed as a part of the socio-economic analysis. The analysis revealed that about 44 percent of the respondents were at the age group of 31-44, 37 percent belonging the 45-60 age group, 12 percent at 61 and above and the remaining 7 percent were below the age 30. It could be inferred that most of the street vendors (81 percent) are in their productive age group of 31-60 and this business has engaged 12 percent of aged persons above 60 years old. As street vending is a self-employment activity it provides job opportunities for longer years. The observation of only 6 percent of vendors at the age group 15-30 indicated that there was low participation of youth members in street vending businesses and younger generations were not found attractive in street vending.

Education is an important socio-economic indicator reflecting the knowledge and behaviour of any person. The respondents are classified into four groups based on their educational levels such as illiterate, primary, elementary, secondary, collegiate and, Technical level. The analysis revealed that major share of the respondents (38 percent) were illiterates, 36 percent were educated up to primary and elementary school, followed by secondary (21 percent). Respondents who studied college level was observed to be very low (4 percent) only. This revealed that education is not a factor very relevant for getting involved in street vending business though highly educated people were also involved in this business to a smaller extent.

The classification of the respondents by marital status pattern revealed that 82 percent of the respondents were married and 7 percent of them were unmarried ones. It is a significant factor observed that 11 percent of vendors were found to be widowed and separated.

The concept of the Joint and nuclear family system is an important factor that reflects the social character of a society. It could be observed that the joint family system was very much under practice among the street vendors. The survey revealed that in the study area, 29 percent of the respondents were practicing the Joint family system and 71 percent of the respondents were in the nuclear family.

It was observed that 50 percent of the respondents were belonging to the BC category, 23 percent of the respondents were under SC & ST category, 21 percent from FC and 6 percent of the respondents were from the MBC category. The caste analysis indicates that street

vending is not confined to socially weaker community and it has in fact, given employment opportunities for socially upper communities like FC and BC to a greater level.

Street vendors belong to the three major religious categories such as Hindus, Muslims, and Christians. The survey revealed that the majority say, 83 percent of the respondents belong to the Hindu religion, 10 percent of the respondents are Muslims and the remaining 7 percent of the respondents belong to Christianity. This observation broadly reflects the overall pattern of the religious composition of the population in the Madurai district.

There is a general understanding that migrants get into street vending. Against this understanding, the survey results revealed that 69 percent of the vendors are natives of Madurai and another 25 percent of the vendors are nearby Madurai. Altogether, 94 percent of the vendors are from Madurai district. Only 5 percent of the vendors have migrated from neighboring districts and one percent from other states. Thus, it could be observed that the results disproved the argument that migrants are pushed into street vending. It could be also argued that the lack of employment opportunities in the organized sector has pushed the local people to take up street vending as their major occupation for survival purposes.

Identity in any form is very important for a businessman. It is all the more important for a street vendor in an urban area. Hence, it was attempted to understand whether vendors have any type of legal or other related identity cards such as Ration Card, Adhar Card, Voter Identity Card, Pan Card, Passport, Bank Account, ATM card, and Credit Card. Distribution of respondents by the possession of various identity items are given in table 2.

Table 2
Distribution of Respondents by their Identity Possession

S.No	Identity Possessed	Percent		
		Yes	No	Total
1	Ration Card	98	2	100
2	Adhar Card	97	3	100
3	Voter Identity	95	5	100
4	Passport	3	97	100
5	PAN Card	3	97	100
6	Bank Account	74	26	100
7	ATM Card	55	45	100
8	Credit Card	2	98	100

Source: Primary Data

It was observed that ration card, adhar card and voter identity card are commonly available with the majority of street vendors. Above 95 percent of the vendors reported that they possess these identity cards. In contrast, passport and PAN card identities are possessed by only 3 percent of the street vendors. 74 percent of the respondents only reportedly having bank accounts and only 55 percent of the respondents have ATM Card. Only 2 percent have reported having credit cards. This indicated that almost one-fourth of the respondents are yet to be brought under organized banking sector and the digital marking has to penetrate among almost 50 percent of the street vendors.

The economic status of the street vendors is understood by classifying the respondents into four categories such as very poor, poor, medium and rich. The survey revealed that 52 percent of the street vendors identified themselves as they were poor, 36 percent as medium and 12 percent as very poor. None of the sample vendors indicated that they belong to the rich category. Thus, on the whole, the majority of the street vendors (64 percent) were considered as economically poor and very poor categories.

Though a major share of street vendors was low in their education and poor in economic status, they were educating their children in a better way. This phenomenon was understood by analysing the highest level of education attained by the children of the street vendors. It was observed that 63 percent of the children have gone up to secondary/high school and college level. Improving the educational status of children could be supported by the earning of the vendors. It was observed that 64 percent of the vendor families reported with more than one earning member in their home. As more than one member is involved in productive employment and earns for their family, the total family income would be high and increasing.

It was observed that 56 percent of the street vendors live in rented houses and only 39 percent of them live in owned houses. Only 5 percent of the vendors live in leased houses. No sample respondents reported that they live on the streets.

Table 3
Socio-Economic Conditions of the Street Vendors

Indicators	Categories	Percent
Economic Status of the Family	Very Poor	12
	Poor	52
	Medium	36
	Rich	0
Highest Educational Qualification of Children	Not Relevant	7
	Primary & Elementary School	22
	Secondary/ High school	45
	University	18
	Technical / Vocational	8
Number of Earning Members	1	31
	2	50
	3	14
	4 and above	5
Place of Residence	Owned	39
	Rented	56
	Leased	5
Type of House	Thatched	25
	Tiled	40
	Terraced	35
Languages Known to Speak	1	81
	2	16
	3	3
Habits	Smoking	25
	Drinking	18
	Gambling	1

Source: Primary Data

This indicated that the street vendors are very conscious about their safety and security and live in houses. This argument is further supported by the type of houses on which they live. It was observed that 40 percent of them were staying in tiled houses and 35 percent on terraced houses. The least number of vendors (25 percent) live in thatched houses. As far as languages known to speak is concerned, the majority of the vendors (81 percent) speak only one language and the rest 19 percent speak more than one language. As many of the vendor responders were from local areas and from in and around Madurai, they could manage their business with a single language.

Table 4
Business Profile of the Street Vendors

Indicators	Categories	Percent
Previous Occupation	Unemployed	37
	Agricultural Work	18
	Domestic Work	10
	Wage Work	31
	Driving	4
Main Item Sold	Vegetable and Fruits	32
	Cooked Foods	22
	Flowers	14
	Milk and Milk Products	12
	Household Products	7
	Cosmetic and Fancy Items	5
	Tea and Coffee	5
	Cool Drinks	2
	Readymade Garments	1
Category of Sales	Single Point Sales	67
	Mobile Sales	19
	Multi-Point Sales	14
Working hours per day	Less than 4 hrs	6
	4 - 6 hrs	26
	6 - 8 hrs	27
	8 - 10 hrs	27
	More than 10 hrs	14
Vendors with Outstanding Loans		12
Vendors Needed Additional Loan		23
Vendors with Bad Experience with Money Lenders		32
Vendors with Experience of Business Related Corruption		18
Vendors with Seasonal Imbalance Experience		66

Source: Primary Data

The prevalence of certain personal habits such as smoking, drinking, and gambling would affect the economic conditions of street vendor families. It was observed that 25 percent of the street vendors were involved in smoking, 18 percent in drinking and 1 percent in gambling. A few vendors reported that they are involved in both smoking and drinking. Smoking and Drinking habits would have negative effects on the health and economic conditions of the street vendors.

An analysis of the previous occupation of the vendors revealed that 37 percent of the respondents were unemployed earlier, 31 percent were wage workers and the rest were in activities like agricultural work, domestic work, and driving. A large share of street vendors has taken up this business as they were unemployed earlier and therefore it could be argued that unemployment is the dominant push factor for street vending business.

The street vendors undertake the sale of different items and the main items include Vegetable and Fruits, Cooked Foods, Flowers, Milk and Milk Products, Household Products, Cosmetic and Fancy Items, Tea and Coffee, Cool Drinks and Readymade Garments. It was observed that 80 percent of the vendors were dealing the items such as Vegetable and Fruits (32 percent), Cooked Foods (22 percent), Flowers (14 percent), Milk and Milk Products (12 percent).

Street vendors undertake their business by selling at a single place or location or move from one point to another point or by continuously moving on the streets. It was observed that 67 percent of the street vendors were involved in single point sales, 19 percent in mobile (moving) sales and the rest 14 percent by multi-point sales.

The average number of working hours per day for the vendors varies from two to twelve hours. 41 percent of the vendors work for prolonged durations above 8 hours. A significantly smaller percentage of vendors (6 percent) spent less than 4 hours in the vending business. The vendors do not count the hours they spent on purchasing and assembling the products as they are treated as preparatory works. Most of the vendors spent more hours and that too during odd timings like late evening and early morning. If these hours were counted, the real-time of working would be doubled. However, as per the respondent's perception and calculation, 54 percent of the vendors spent 6-8 hours of work per day on vending.

Street vendors are often falling into a debt trap due to the high level of their indebtedness. They need credit for their economic and non-economic activities. To meet their credit requirements, they borrow money from various other sources as their access to bank credit is low. The present study revealed that 12 percent of the vendors have outstanding loans and 23 percent of the vendors expressed the need for additional loans for business purposes like an expansion of business and formalising the business activities, and non-economic purposes

like construction of a house, medical and educational purposes. Almost one-third of the vendors expressed that they had a bad experience with informal money lenders. It was observed that 18 percent of the total respondents were forced to involve in corruption and 82 percent claim that they do not pay any bribes. The seasonal imbalance was observed as a major experience of 66 percent of the street vending vendors.

It was observed from the analysis that the majority of the vendors (35 percent) invested less than Rs.5000, followed by 28 percent invested Rs.5001-10000 and 14 percent invested Rs,10001-15000. This indicated that the initial capital invested in street vending businesses was very low. This could be a significant factor for attracting many into the street vending business.

Table 5
Functional Performance of Street Vending Business

Indicators	Categories	Percent
Investment per Business	less than Rs.5000	35
	Rs. 5001 - 10000	28
	Rs. 10001 - 15000	14
	Rs. 15001 - 20000	8
	above Rs. 20000	15
Sources of Investment	Money Lenders	17
	Banks	13
	Friends and Relatives	20
	Own Savings	35
	Parents	13
	Micro Finance Groups	2
Working Capital Requirement	Less than Rs.500	28
	Rs. 501 - 1000	32
	Rs. 1001 - 1500	12
	Rs. 1501 - 2000	21
	above Rs. 2000	7
Net Profit Earned	Less than Rs. 200	9
	Rs. 201- 300	23
	Rs. 301 - 400	15
	Rs. 401 - 500	31
	Rs. above 500	22

Source: Primary Data

Access to capital is an economic linkage that connects street vending to the economy and it influences the economic aspects of the business such as, investment, productivity performance, profit, and business growth. Since street vending is considered an illegal profession they are not legally entertained by public authorities and financial institutions. Hence, it is not easy for the vendors to mobilise funding from banks and the street vendors do not have access to institutional credit. This fact is very much supported by the results of the survey. It was observed that only 13 percent of the vendors obtained loans from banks and all others relied on other sources for their initial investment. 35 percent of the vendors reported that they started their business with their savings. 33 percent of the vendors mobilised finance from parents, friends, and relatives. 17 percent relied on money lenders. Only 2 percent received from microfinance groups. It can be argued that the banking sector has extended very limited support for the start of business.

The majority of the street vendors complete their business by the end of the day, they manage their business with less stock and with less working capital. However, the per day working capital requirement of the business is determined by many factors. The sample vendors were grouped based on their working capital requirement (per day) as less than Rs.500, Rs.501-1000, Rs.1001-1500, Rs.1501-2000 and above Rs.2000. It was observed that the majority of the vendors (60 percent) needed less than Rs.1000 as their working capital, followed by 33 percent invested Rs.1001-2000 and 7 percent invested above Rs.2000. This indicated that the working capital requirement for street vending businesses was very low.

The performance of the business should get reflected in the net income or profit earned on the close of the business every day. The vendor respondents were grouped based on their net income groups as less than Rs.200, Rs.201-300, Rs.301-400, Rs.401 to 500 and above Rs.500. Only 9 percent of the respondents had a daily income of less than 200. The daily income of a considerable portion of the sample respondents (23 percent) was found to be Rs. 201-300. 22 percent of the respondents had an income ranging above Rs. 500 indicating that a few vendors earn quite a high income, reflecting the type of business, the age of the business, the location, and the products they sell.

The sample street vendors had mixed opinions about the prospects of the street vending business. Of course, these opinion results are business and vendor-specific, and more with location-specific. Only 15 percent of the respondents felt that the future of the street vendors would be good (see Table 6)

Table 6
Opinion about the Prospect of Street Vending Business

SL. No	Future Prospect	Percent
1	Very Good	15
2	Good and Moderate	47
3	Difficult	19
4	Very Difficult	16
TOTAL		100

Source: Primary Data

Major shares of respondents believed that the future would be good and moderate. 35 percent of the vendors opined that the future would be difficult and very difficult. As street vending businesses survive based on a niche market, major shares of vendors were positive about their future business, under the prevailing business environment.

Section 3 **Summary and Conclusion**

The present study is an attempt to understand the evolution, functional performance, problems and needs of street vendors at a micro level to evolve suitable strategies to protect the street vendors and improve their livelihood.

The present study is primarily based on field data obtained by a primary survey conducted among the street vendors in urban Madurai, Tamil Nadu. The major findings of the study are summarized below:

- Male vendors accounted for 69 percent of the business and the rest 31 percent was accounted for by females. It indicated that male dominate in street vending business compared to that of the female.
- Most of the street vendors (81 percent) are in their productive age group of 31-60 and this business has engaged 12 percent of aged persons above 60 years old.
- The low share of (6 percent) vendors at the age group 15-30 indicated that there was low participation of youth members in street vending businesses and younger generations were not found attractive in street vending.
- The major share of the respondents (38 percent) was illiterates and respondents who studied college level were observed to be very low (4 percent) only. This revealed that education is not a factor very relevant for getting involved in street vending business though highly educated people were also involved in this business to a smaller extent.
- 82 percent of the respondents were married and 7 percent of them were unmarried ones. It is a significant factor observed that 11 percent of vendors were found to be widowed and separated.
- Street vending is not confined to socially weaker community and it has in fact, given employment opportunities for socially upper communities like FC and BC to a greater level.
- 94 percent of the vendors are from Madurai district, 5 percent of the vendors have migrated from neighbouring districts and one percent from other states. These results disproved the argument that migrants are pushed into street vending.
- Ration card, adhar card, and voter identity card are commonly available with the majority (95 percent) of street vendors.
- One-fourth of the respondents are yet to be brought under the organized banking sector and the digital marking has to penetrate among almost 50 percent of the street vendors.
- 52 percent of the street vendors identified themselves as they were poor, 36 percent as medium and 12 percent as very poor. None of the sample vendors indicated that they belong to the rich category.
- A major share of street vendors was low in their education and poor in economic status, but they were educating their children in a better way.

- 56 percent of the street vendors live in rented houses and only 39 percent of them live in owned houses. No sample respondents reported that they live on the streets.
- 25 percent of the street vendors were involved in smoking, 18 percent in drinking and 1 percent in gambling.
- 21 percent of the workers have working experience less than 5 years and a major share (79 percent) of vendors were with more than 5 years of experience, indicating that street vending provide long term employment to people who undertook this business as their occupation and many continue in this activity for several years.
- A large share of street vendors has taken up this business as they were unemployed earlier and therefore, unemployment is the dominant push factor for street vending business.
- 69 percent of the vendors are introduced to this business by friends and relatives. It indicated that peer group (friends and relatives) influence was the dominant factor for introducing new persons into the street vending business.
- 80 percent of the vendors were dealing the items such as Vegetable and Fruits (32 percent), Cooked Foods (22 percent), Flowers (14 percent), Milk and Milk Products (12 percent).
- 67 percent of the street vendors were involved in single point sales, 19 percent in mobile (moving) sales and the rest 14 percent by multi-point sales.
- 41 percent of the vendors work for prolonged durations above 8 hours. 54 percent of the vendors spent 6-8 hours of work per day on vending.
- 12 percent of the vendors had outstanding loans and 23 percent of the vendors expressed the need for additional loans for business purposes like the expansion of business and formalising the business activities, and non-economic purposes like construction of house, medical and educational purposes.
- One-third of the vendors expressed that they had a bad experience with informal money lenders.
- 18 percent of the total respondents were forced to involve in corruption and 82 percent claim that they do not pay any bribes.
- The seasonal imbalance was observed as a major experience of 66 percent of the street vending vendors.

- The initial capital invested in street vending businesses was very low. The majority of the vendors (35 percent) invested less than Rs.5000, followed by 28 percent invested Rs.5001-10000 and 14 percent invested Rs.10001-15000. This could be a significant factor for attracting many into the street vending business.
- The banking sector has extended very limited support for the start of business. Only 13 percent of the vendors obtained loans from banks and all others relied on other sources for their initial investment. 35 percent of the vendors reported that they started their business with their savings. 33 percent of the vendors mobilised finance from parents, friends, and relatives. 17 percent relied on money lenders. Only 2 percent received from microfinance groups.
- The working capital requirement for street vending businesses was very low. The majority of the vendors (60 percent) needed less than Rs.1000 as their working capital, followed by 33 percent invested Rs.1001-2000 and 7 percent invested above Rs.2000.
- The daily income of a considerable portion of the sample respondents (23 percent) was found to be Rs. 201-300. 22 percent of the respondents had an income ranging above Rs. 500 indicating that a few vendors earn quite a high income,
- Street vendors were less interested in networking with other institutions/agencies and they confine with their business activities.
- “Family, Relative and Friends” is the most important factor influencing street vending business, perceived by the respondents as it has the highest mean score.
- “Fluctuating profitability” is the key problematic factor faced by the respondents as it had the highest mean score.
- “Customer support” is the most important factor for business improvement suggested by the respondents as it has the highest mean score.
- 63 percent of the respondents were not willing to recommend the street vending business to others and only 37 percent indicated their willingness to recommend this business. It is observed that only 8 percent of the existing street vendors strongly recommend this business to others.
- Major shares of respondents believed that the future would be good and moderate. 35 percent of the vendors opined that the future would be difficult and very difficult.

- As street vending businesses survive based on a niche market, major shares of vendors were positive about their future business, under the prevailing business environment.

In sum, the study concluded that the socio-economic conditions of the street vendors are still poor and there are several areas on which there is scope for intervention and improvement. The development in the socio-economic conditions can be achieved with the support of street vendors, family members, local organisations and NGOs and Government. This calls for a coordinated effort from all individuals and institutions.

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